

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03633 040007Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IGA-02 INR-07 SS-15 H-01
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-----040013Z 117834 /70

R 032114Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4643
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3633

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS CI XM
SUBJECT: REVISION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 87395

1. REFTEL RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON
LEGISLATION STRENGTHENING AMBASSADORIAL AUTHORITY IN THE
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SECURITY ASSISTANCE FIELD.

2. THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1976 AMENDED
SECTION 515 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 TO
PROVIDE THAT:

--AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1976 MAAG'S AND OTHER ORGANI-

ZATIONS PERFORMING MILITARY ADVISORY FUNCTIONS WOULD BE TERMINATED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS; --THE PRESIDENT MAY ASSIGN "NOT MORE THAN THREE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE CHIEF OF EACH UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION..." TO PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS.

3. NSDM 342 THEN CALLED ON THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD, INTER ALIA, "PROVIDE FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY GROUPS BASED UPON THEIR TRADITIONAL ROLE OF REPRESENTATION", AND "PERMIT WITHOUT SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, THE ASSIGNMENT TO THE CHIEF OF EACH US DIPLOMATIC MISSION OF UP TO SIX MILITARY PERSONNEL TO PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS."

4. REFTEL SUMMERIZES WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED TO CONGRESS CONCERNING RESTRUCTURING OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE OVERSEAS, INCLUDING "CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY GROUPS." THE MATTER OF AMBASSADORIAL AUTHORITY IS NOT ADDRESSED.

5. THIS RAISES A SERIOUS QUESTION. WILL THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA, WHETHER THEY ARE CALLED ODC'S OR MILGP'S AND WHETHER THEY HAVE THREE OR SIX OR MORE PERSONNEL, BE "ASSIGNED TO THE CHIEF OF EACH US DIPLOMATIC MISSION" BEGINNING OCTOBER 1 AS CALLED FOR BY EXISTING LAW AND NSDM

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3422 OR DO THE CHANGES PROPOSED TO CONGRESS PROVIDE THAT LATIN AMERICAN MILGPS WILL CONTINUE UNDER USCINCSO COMMAND AFTER SEPTEMBER 30?

6. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT AMBASSADORIAL AUTHORITY IN THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE FIELD AS STRENGTHENED BY THE AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 515 ASSIGNING SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL TO THE CHIEF OF EACH US MISSION SHOULD NOT BE DILUTED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE (AS I AM SURE OTHER LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSIES WOULD) THE DEPARTMENT'S CLARIFICATION AS TO WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PROPOSING IN THIS REGARD. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL PRESS FOR THE CEILING OF SIX, RATHER THAN THREE.

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Disposition Reason:
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